

The Value of Values

Value #2: Reproducing Healthy Believers

Luke 13:6—9

📖 Luke 13:6–9 (NIV84) *“Then He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.’⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’⁸ ‘‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.’⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”*

1. The **expectation** to see fruit.

📖 Luke 13:6–7 (NIV84) *“Then He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.’⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’”*

📖 Luke 3:9 (NLT) *“Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.”*

📖 Matthew 7:18–20 (NIV84) *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”*

📖 Galatians 5:22–23a (NIV84) *“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control.”*

📖 2 Peter 1:5b–11 (NIV84) *“...make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2. The **participation** required to have fruit.

📖 Luke 13:8 (NIV84) *“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.’”*

Images of Discipleship

1. The gardener **sees** the tree’s **potential**.

2. The gardener **pleads** the tree’s **case**.

3. The gardener **commits to do** what he should have already **been doing**.

4. The gardener **invests his resources** into the tree’s success.

5. The gardener **makes himself accountable**.

📖 James 4:17 (NLT) *“...it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”*

📖 2 Timothy 2:1–2 (NIV84) *“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

3. The **inspection** of the fruit.

📖 Luke 13:9 (NIV84) *“If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”*

📖 Psalm 145:8 (NIV84) *“The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”*

📖 Romans 14:10b–12 (NIV84) *“...For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.¹¹ It is written: ‘‘As surely as I live,’’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’”¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”*

📖 Hebrews 9:27–28 (NIV84) *“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.”*

📖 2 Corinthians 5:10–11 (NIV84) *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.”*

Digging Deeper: Has someone’s death caused you to question God? Is there fruit on the tree of your life? Is the fruit you display real or fake? Is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23a) a reality in your life? Mike shared some images of discipleship in the care the gardener gave to the tree; what do you notice that Mike may have missed? Does judgment day scare you? --Why or why not?